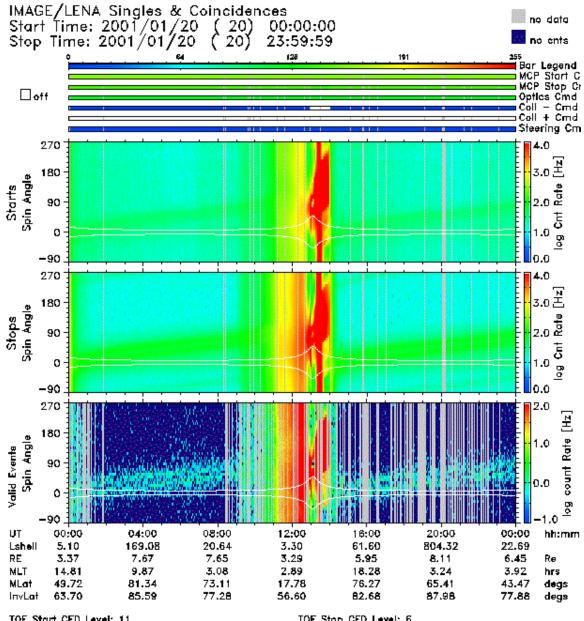
Direct Observations of Interstellar Neutral Atoms

David Simpson/GSFC



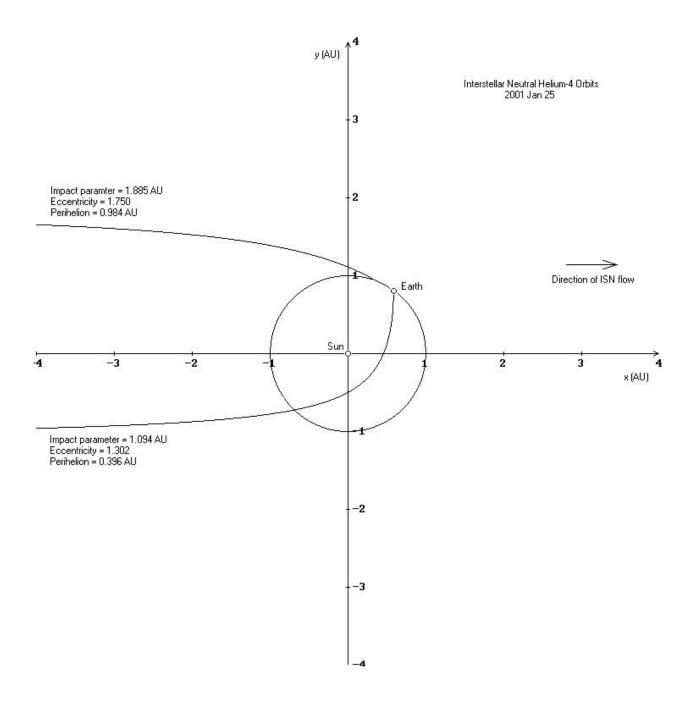
TOF Start CFD Level: 11 HVPS Optics Steering Cmd: 0 lena_dps_v1.0.0 Wed Apr 11 03:41:38 2001 Data: UDF Definitive

zero spin angle: Earth

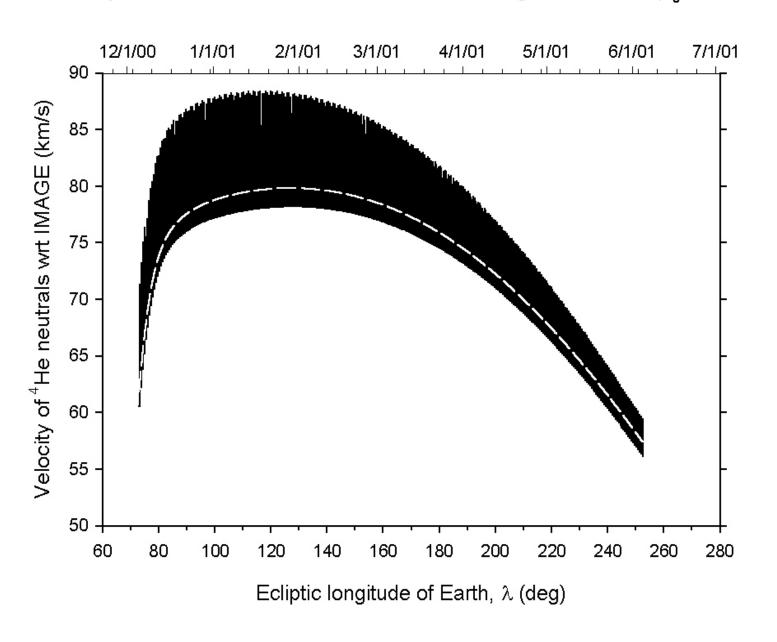
TOF Stop CFD Level: 6 HVPS MCP Stop VMON: 167* /archive1/PRODUCTS/downloads/101012000002359_sumsp0.glf

Overview

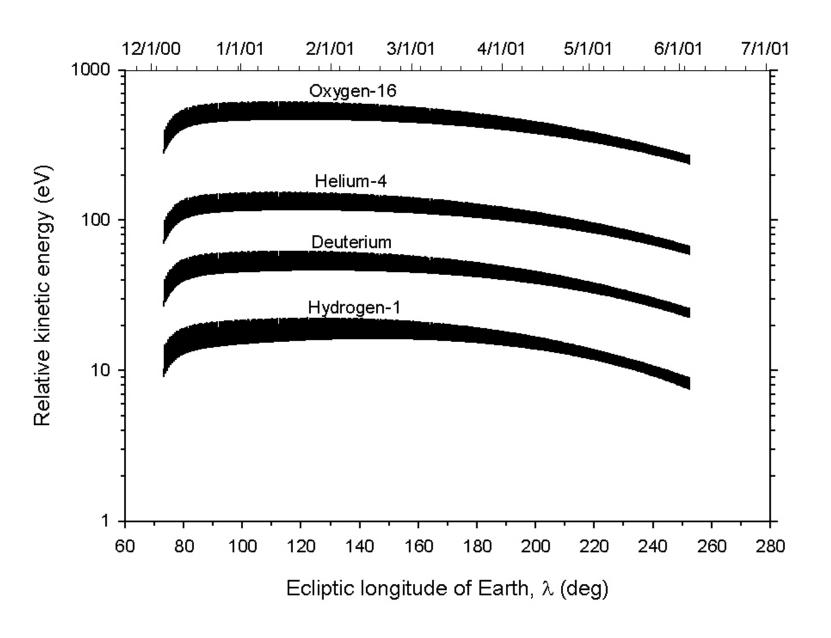
- The appearance of a low-energy interstellar neutral atom signal in the LENA data had been predicted by S. Fuselier
- Hyperbolic orbits of interstellar neutral atoms around the Sun have been calculated in three dimensions
- Velocity vectors of neutrals with respect to IMAGE have been calculated, allowing for motion of the Earth and spacecraft, solar gravitation and deflection, and radiation pressure
- Calculated orbits have been used to predict the expected location of an interstellar neutral atom signal in the LENA data



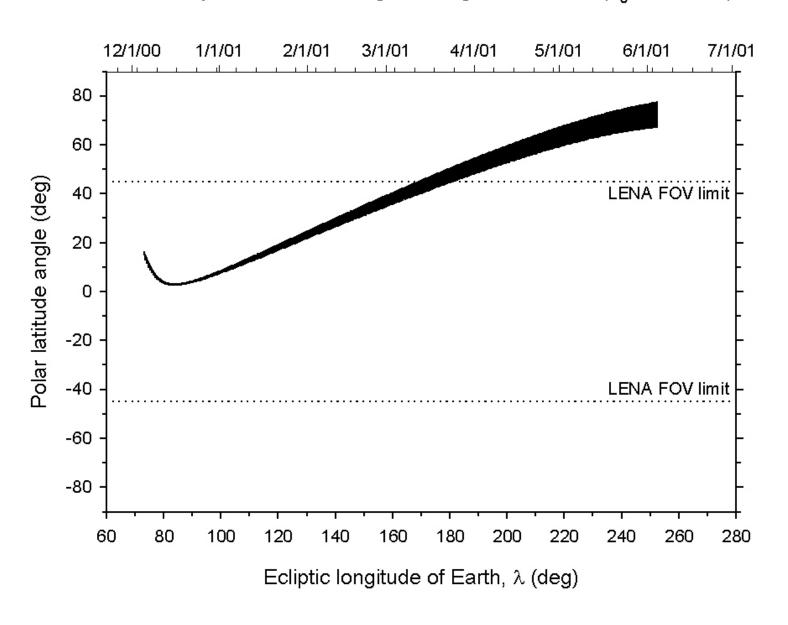
Velocity of ⁴He neutral atoms wrt IMAGE along Earth orbit (v₀=20 km/s)



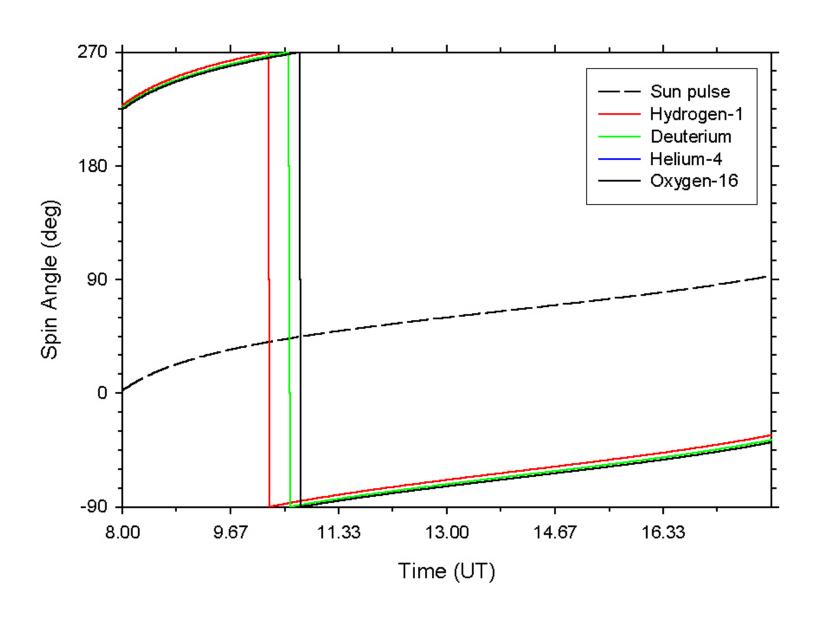
Relative kinetic energy vs. Earth angle (v₀=20 km/s)

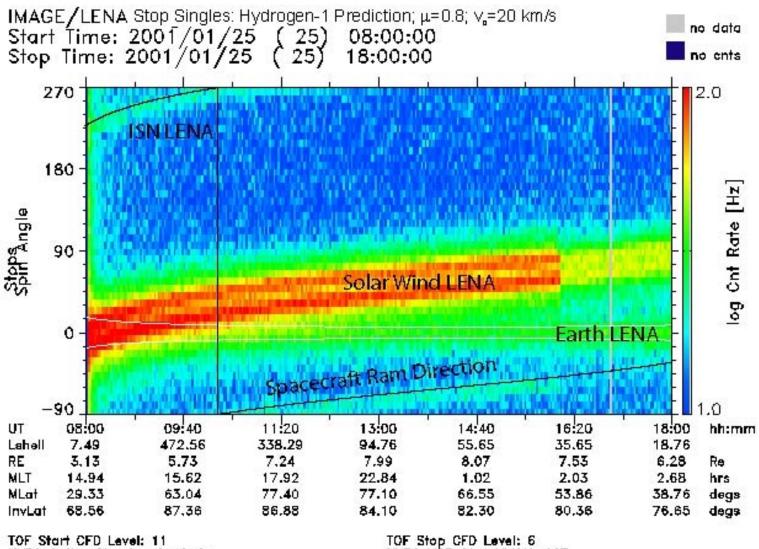


ISN ⁴He polar latitude angle along Earth orbit (v₀=20 km/s)



Predicted ISN signal, 2001 Jan 25 (v₀=20 km/s)





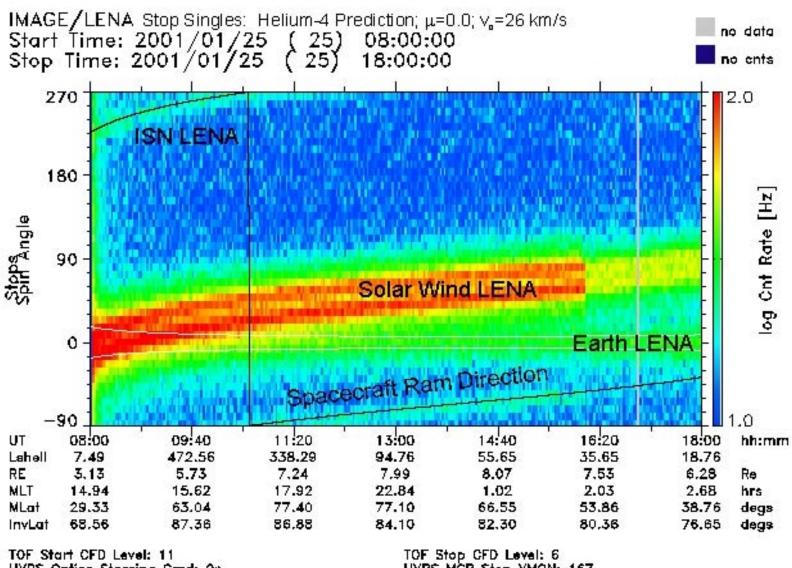
TOF Start CFD Level: 11 HVPS Optica Steering Cmd: 0*

HVPS MCP Stop VMON: 167

lena_dps_v1.0.0 Wed May 23 12:09:10 2001

/space/www/stage/101012508001800_sumsp0_q5066.glf

Data: UDF Definitive zero spin angle: Earth



HVPS Optics Steering Cmd: 0*

lena_dps_v1.0.0 Wed May 23 12:09:10 2001

Data: UDF Definitive zero spin angle: Earth

HVPS MCP Stop VMON: 167

/space/www/stage/101012508001800_sumsp0_q5066.glf

Summary and Conclusions

- Orbits of interstellar neutral atoms have been calculated in three dimensions
- Corrections have been made for the velocity of the Earth wrt the Sun, velocity of the spacecraft wrt the Earth, solar gravitation and deflection, and radiation pressure
- Results are consistent with earlier results of Fuselier, Bzowski
- Location of signal in LENA spectrograms in Jan.-Feb. 2001 is consistent with the expected direction of interstellar neutral atoms
- Preliminary results suggest that the observed signal is most consistent with helium-4